

DD/S 72-2789

14 JUL 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Medical Services

SUBJECT : Overweight Employees

REFERENCE : Memo dtd 10 July 72 for Acting DD/S fr DMS, same subj

John:

You will probably think we're hard to please or that we don't understand your professional problem in taking aggressive action on this subject. Both may be true but, nevertheless, I know that the proposal in Ref is not responsive (at least in form) to what the Director wants, and I also know that we cannot tell him that a more specific and direct program is not going to be proposed. Part of the problem is your oblique and modest style of writing. Recommend, don't suggest. Use the active voice and the indicative mode, be specific rather than general. What you have put in subparagraphs 1.a., b., and c. is fine but let's outline it as positive direct steps. For instance:

1. The Director should say to his senior staff: "A few days ago I asked Jack Coffey whether there were anything we could do about human fat and about heart problems. John Tietjen has made the point that cardiovascular disease is not a simple thing and that overweight is not clearly the culprit. No argument though that excess poundage is not good. He has worked up a program to try to do something about getting people to trim some of the lard off. We're going to be getting out an Employee Bulletin in a few days, but I want to underscore my personal interest in the program and ask you to take an interest also. Now I don't want to be unreasonable and I know that not everybody was born to be lean and mean, and I also know that whether a man or a woman does anything about his weight is his personal business. But some prodding here and there might do some good. I want all of you to do some of that prodding."

2. We are preparing a series of posters for Agency bulletin boards about the individual's responsibility to himself and the organization to take care of his health and focusing on weight problems.

3. Attached is a proposed Employee Bulletin which we will issue after your (DCI) statement.

etc., etc. ----



Robert S. Wattles
Acting Deputy Director
for Support

STATINTL